India

FOR THE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Viceroy's famine telegram this week announces a welcome decline of the numbers in receipt of relief, but they are still over half a million—537,000. The figures for Bombay Native States, Central Provinces, and Madras remain unaltered, whatever that may mean; and Mysore, which came in with 3,000 in the preceding week, appears this week with a clean bill. The chief diminutions are in Bombay and Central India States. The advent of heavy rain in the nick of time seems to promise further reductions, and the Government anticipates no difficulty in tiding over the sufferers "till prices fall with the autumn harvest." One is glad to discern even so much of a bit of blue in the dark sky. But what of essential measures of prevention, as distinguished from mitigation and relief?

The Budget Statement is still in the future, and Lord George Hamilton is not yet prepared to table the Report of the Famine Commission. He has got the Report indeed, together with the comments of the Indian Government and a statement of the action they propose to take upon it. But before submitting these documents to Parliament he must consider them in Council, and as the questions raised are "complex and most important" this will take "some little time." Yes, and the papers can be issued very conveniently when Parliament is no longer sitting, and holidays do not conduce to the study of Blue-books, especially Indian Blue-books. In this way a great deal of trouble may be saved to everybody concerned. This is the high "Imperial" style, no doubt. We are glad to observe that several of our friends have put down notices of motion on points of outstanding importance.

The Bombay Land Revenue Code Amendment Bill was first published in the "Bombay Government Gazette" on May 18, and the first reading was taken at a special meeting of the Legislative Council on May 30. The Bill as amended by a Select Committee was published in the "Gazette" on July 8. We print the amended form in another column, together with principal passages of the Code of 1879 affected by the Bill. It will at once be seen from the form of the Bill how difficult it must be for the poor and ignorant cultivators to understand what it is all about. Legislation by reference is bad enough here; but what can be said of it in India? No wonder that Memorialists everywhere cry out for more time. The Memorial of the Deccan Sabha, dated June 28—only ten days before the publication of the report of the Select Committee—stated that "the Bill has not been translated into the vernacular languages of the Presidency." The Select Committee, of course, recommended that their fresh version should be so translated. We observe, however, with misgiving, that Mr. G. K. Harkare, in an "open letter" to Lord Northcote, written "by authority from the agriculturists of the Muddebihal Taluka (District Bijapur), in a meeting assembled," states that he "has not got the Bill in original before him, but a travesty of a Marathi translation of it, which does not purport to be even a literal translation." The date appears to be July 19. Why should the Bill be rushed on at a speed that precludes the possibility of a clear and calm understanding of it by the community affected?

Unfortunately there is much crude and extravagant matter in Mr. Harkare's "open letter." The crudeness may be taken as evidence of the pressure for time; and the extravagance as an indication of the alarm occasioned by the Bill. Yet these unlucky elements must not be allowed to prejudice the case. "From private sources," he says, "we understand that about 75 per cent. of the lands will be forfeited to Government this year after the Bill becomes law." If this estimate be within leagues of the fact, there needs no further explanation of the general excitement and the ardour of protest. Take another point. Suppose the rayat's proprietary rights are forfeited, what is he to do? He must starve, or beg, or—after all, go to the sowkar. "If we are unable to discharge the debt (that is, a possible loan) in money, we shall have to discharge it in service, perhaps life-long service, without remuneration. . . . . Such instances can be found even now, but they are of rare occurrence. What is of rare occurrence now will be general after the Bill becomes law." Here, then, is an intelligent man, whose opinion is trusted by "the agriculturists of the Muddebihal Taluka," looking forward to the conversion of the rayats into serfs. Suppose he is totally mistaken—that he is an alarmist. Surely this is only all the more reason why he should have time and opportunity to appreciate fully the bearings of the proposed legislation.

In the Government reply (July 12) to the Memorial of the Deccan Sabha, Mr. J. L. Jenkins, Acting Secretary, says (para. 4): "The greater part of the criticism in your letter, as of that which has appeared in many newspapers, is directed not against the principles of the Bill at all, but against the action which they think Government purpose taking on its passing, regarding which there is unaccountable misapprehension." Unhappy Government, which cannot express its legislative intentions without such widespread misapprehension! But since such misapprehension is so plainly acknowledged, one would think that the most sensible course would be to stop and explain. Mr. Jenkins, indeed, does offer a great many explanations on the part of the Government, but what is wanted is time to allow these explanations to reach the rayats and to give the rayats ample opportunity to consider them. More than that, it is to be remembered that such explanations are merely pious opinions, honestly intended by the present possessors of power, but of no good whatever under new rulers that "know not Joseph," unless their true force and effect be embodied in clear terms in the Bill. The Privy Council has laid down that even "proceedings of the Legislature in passing a statute are excluded from consideration on the judicial construction of Indian as well as of British statutes." What judicial value, then, is to be attached to any non-judicial statement of the best Government intentions? The Government will do wisely to concede every reasonable facility to the people for getting a grip of the proposed legislation and for expressing a deliberate opinion upon it.

Mr. J. M. Maclean, who has had long and intimate experience of Bombay, has raised his voice authoritatively against the new-fangled legislation that is creating so much discontent and alarm throughout the Presidency. He calls it "Imperialism run mad"—a policy "all the more iniquitous because the condition of the cultivator has been rendered less prosperous of late years, not only by famine, but by the arbitrary legislation of the Government in interfering with the free action of economical laws." We are very glad to see that Mr. Maclean has not lost sight of the mischievous effects of the currency juggle, which, we venture to predict, will not be long in becoming plain to all men. One consequence is that "the amount of money which the cultivator can obtain in return for his produce has been

reduced by fully 30 per cent., or more than the whole net profit which he used to get from his field." The general situation in Bombay seems to Mr. Maclean sad enough. The Presidency, "for many years the most flourishing region in the dominions of the King of England," has been "now, alas! reduced to a state of misery and desolation which must have wrung tears of shame and anger from many an old Anglo-Indian." We print Mr. Maclean's opportune and manly letter in another column.

From the report of the "Times" correspondent at Melbourne it appears that "strong objection is taken to the educational test which it is proposed to insert in the Immigration Restriction Bill, by which every immigrant is required to write 50 words of English dictated by an immigration officer." The ground of the objection is stated to be a fear that the test will give offence to European immigrants, and so tend to exclude desirables as well as undesirables. If European countries were to retaliate in kind, most Australian travellers would be barred out of continental countries. The suggestion, accordingly, is that immigrants from European countries should be required to write the 50 words in their own language. Mr. Barton deprecated the idea of drawing a line between European and Eastern peoples, and though Europeans would probably take what he called a sensible view of the matter. The labour members appear to be most vehement: they "consider the Bill mild, and intend proposing amendments directly aimed against coloured races, including the Japanese"! Here is a very melancholy exhibition of democracy—a colonial sign of the times that should attract and fix serious consideration in this country in these "Imperial" days. On the other hand "Mr. Bruce Smith characterised the Bill as organised hypocrisy," and the great journal, the "Argus," says it is "the most illiberal measure ever submitted to an Australian legislature."

Rhodesia is at its wits' end for labour. Mr. Rhodes was compelled to disclaim the idea that he meant to import Chinamen. Then, if we remember right, he tried Abyssinians, but part of the cargo at least threw themselves overboard when they learnt the facts of their impending situation—or so it was reported. Now a Rhodesian agent has been at Aden and the regions round about, trying to engage Arabs. Lord George Hamilton, as will be seen from our Parliamentary Report, has instructed the Aden authorities to afford proper facilities for the engagement of Arabs, and in particular has required the officials to see that the labourers that take the Rhodesian shilling fully understand the terms of their engagements, and are subjected to no compulsion to engage. Moreover, he has required the Rhodesian legislature to provide adequately for the protection of the labourers, to the satisfaction of the Home Government. This is all very well on paper, but we confess to misgivings as to the practical execution of Lord George's good intentions. At the same time, it is not easy to see what more he could do in a most difficult matter. The responsibility for the results should lead the Home Government to maintain a vigilant inspection.

The Indore Administration Report for 1900-01, while recording that "the State has effected many reforms and improvements," acknowledges that the year "has been a very bad one from a financial point of view" by reason of the prevalence of the famine. One of the improvements is this: "Steps have been taken and strict orders issued with a view to prevent fracas between the subjects of the State and officers and soldiers of his Majesty shooting in the preserved and unpreserved jungles of the State." But the details of such steps and orders are withheld. It is satisfactory to find that "a skilful man has been engaged in the jail of Indore to teach prisoners handicrafts"; and that "about 150 orphans are also taught various handicrafts with a view to make them fit to earn their livelihood independently." Generally, there seems to be a good deal of satisfactory work going on, but so little information is vouchsafed on each head that an outsider will find some difficulty in assessing its value. It is not a little, however, that the idea of progress appears to have taken a firm grip of the Administration.

The amount sanctioned for famine relief measures in Indore last year is stated at about 14 lakhs of rupees. Rs. 4,64,782 were actually distributed in the form of taccavi for bullocks, seed, food, etc., to cultivators otherwise helpless. In addition, half the land revenue—nearly 32 lakhs—was suspended. No fewer than 21,59,565 persons are said to have obtained gratuitous relief at the State poor-houses, while 3,60,205 "were fed gratuitously by private persons in poor-houses and Ann Chattras," and "private persons gave other sort of relief to 9,16,636 persons." The extent of private bounty is as noteworthy as the public relief. It further appears that "out of 957 tanks in the State 367 only were in use at the beginning of this year." Why? and what came of it? This: "all the rest, having never been repaired during the past 15 years, could not hold water, and consequently thousands of bighas of land have fallen out of irrigation." This is bad. A stitch in time would save nine—and a good deal more—in Indore, as well as elsewhere.

The discussions on the question of prisoners' confessions have received a very practical illustration in a trial for murder, which has just been the subject of an appeal in the Bombay High Court. Rama and Maruti had married two sisters, who had a brother Balku. Balku and Rama went to stay with Maruti, and the three left his house together. Some hours later the body of Rama was found murdered. Maruti and Balku were arrested, but the latter was allowed to turn approver. Maruti was tried before Mr. Aston, Sessions Judge of Poona. The jury brought in a unanimous verdict of not guilty, but the Judge holding that the evidence established that the accused intentionally co-operated in the murder, submitted the case to the High Court. There Mr. Justice Candy and Mr. Justice Fulton disagreed, and the matter was referred to Mr. Justice Crowe, who convicted Maruti and sentenced him to transportation for life.

There seems to be no doubt that Balku was guilty of participating in the murder, but in his evidence he declared that he had done his utmost to dissuade Maruti, whose motive was his love for the murdered man's wife. This story was accepted as the theory of the prosecution, but not one of the three Judges seems to have believed it completely, and Mr. Justice Candy had little difficulty in showing that Balku's evidence was quite unreliable. It cannot be doubted that had the case rested on this, Maruti would have been acquitted. Unfortunately for himself he had made a confession to the committing magistrate, which he withdrew when he was before the Sessions Judge. It is admitted that the confession was not wholly true. But from this confession, admittedly false in parts, Mr. Justice Fulton and Mr. Justice Crowe took one statement as true, the statement that he killed Rama, and on that he was convicted.

This, then, raises the question of how prisoners' confessions should be dealt with. Maruti first confessed to a chief constable, then to the committing magistrate, and finally withdrew his confession when before the Sessions Judge. He declared then that the first confession was extorted from him by a promise that if he confessed he would escape punishment. His confession to the committing magistrate was the result of ill-treatment at the hands of the police. In any case this confession is admitted by the prosecution to be false. He assigned as the reason of the murder, not his love for Rama's wife, but Rama's love for his wife. In fact, the greater part of the confession was treated by the Judge as false. It becomes, then, a question whether a confession, admittedly false as regards the greater part, made while the prisoner was in the power of the police and (according to his statement) as a result of their violence, and afterwards retracted, can be a satisfactory ground for the conviction of a prisoner who without it must undoubtedly have been acquitted.

In commenting on this case, the "Times of India" points out a certain inconsistency between the crime and the sentence. Mr. Justice Fulton, indeed, while rejecting nearly the whole of Maruti's confession, accepts not only his guilt, but his statement that the murder was a result of a sudden quarrel, thus throwing over the evidence of the approver, Balku. Mr. Justice Candy on the other hand contended with irresistible force that the accused

was either innocent or guilty of an atrocious murder, for which death was the legal penalty. Mr. Justice Crowe, apparently accepting the view of the prosecution as to the circumstances of the murder, only sentenced the murderer to transportation for life, without giving any reason for this mitigated penalty. Does this illogical sentence reflect the weakness of the evidence which procured the conviction?

The difficulties experienced in Reformatory Schools in India are of two kinds—those with which we are familiar here, and others peculiar to that country. Of the first kind is the difficulty of tracing boys when they have left, and of securing that they shall remain in the situations provided for them. Thus the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal complains that the boys who were given employment at the Empress Mills and in the Bengal Secretariat first absented themselves and then disappeared. On the other hand, the institution of caste raises difficulties peculiar to India, and it is no doubt a wise decision that boys are to be taught the trade of their caste, though this must decrease the earnings of the reformatories. Some saving may be effected by not sending boys to reformatories when they can be dealt with as well in other ways. The desire to increase the earnings of the reformatories has much to answer for. The profits of manufactures at Hazaribagh have decreased 42 per cent. as a result of a reduction in the amount of cotton-weaving demanded; but at the same time the health of the inmates has improved. In other words, this industry was carried on at so high a pressure as to injure the health of the boys.

The "Times of India" returns to the question of Indian University Reform, in consequence of Dr. Welldon's letter to the London "Times," to which we referred in our issue of July 5. The Bishop wishes a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge to be sent for to report on the Calcutta University, with (as our Bombay contemporary puts it) "all the wealth of knowledge of the requirements of the country, which is the peculiar attribute of the new-comer." If his report commends itself to the Government, he should be appointed Minister of Education. It is scarcely necessary to say that this proposal does not commend itself to the "Times of India," which takes occasion to reprove the attacks on the Indian Universities which have emanated from other sources. Without any desire to hide their faults, our contemporary points out that from the Universities have come many distinguished Judges of the High Court. "In the Subordinate Judicial Service an even more impressive contradiction would have presented itself," while the same testimony is afforded by the Indians in the Revenue Department. Quite true; only is it not time to see where and how the Universities are susceptible of improvement?

"The conduct of the Parsee community during the plague is an excellent example of self-help and co-operation in the face of a great emergency." This is high praise from the "Times of India," which in the past has not always been too ready to do justice to the conduct of Indians in emergencies, to whatever race or religion they might belong. The Parsees have spent more than two lakhs of rupees in providing hospitals and camps and in assisting convalescents. One curious fact is mentioned by Dr. Sorab Nariman. In the last epidemic, in contrast to those of former years, one-fourth of the patients came from bungalows and detached houses, several being from the wealthier quarters of the town. From this he infers that the poorer classes are becoming gradually immune, and therefore Bombay has seen the worst of the epidemics.

An interesting point is raised in the Report on "Weaver Relief" in the Cuddapah district. Complaint was made that the payment by the Government of four rupees for 6 x 6 turbans was not sufficient to give full meals to a family. Mr. Harding, the Collector, found a father, mother, and children thin with the privations they had suffered. They protested strongly against closing the works, and when asked how it was that the sowcars paid eight annas less for the same work they frankly said: "Ah! but we cheat the sowcars, and we cannot cheat you. You weigh everything carefully and fine us: they do not." Nevertheless, the Government has decided to reduce their rates to those paid by the sowcars. The "Madras Mail" considers that these remarks of the weavers explain much else besides the lower price at which they are willing to work for the sowcars—explain, for instance, the preference for the arbitrary but less rigid revenue system of "the good old times."

Lieutenant-Colonel F. N. Maude, late R.E., writing on "The Alleviation of Indian Famines" in the August number of "The Empire Review," proposes the establishment of "a number of road transport companies based on the railways or other arteries of communication, working as feeders to the railway in prosperous times, and as distributors from the railway during periods of famine." The scheme, he says, "was worked out on the ground with special reference to the local conditions in the tract south of the Lahore-Delhi main line of railway, and between the watershed of the Jumna and the Sutlej, an area of not less than 30,000 square miles"; and elsewhere it might be applied with any necessary modifications of detail. He draws support from the experience of road transport in this country and on the Continent, and assures capitalists that his scheme has a future. He would want, however, "an agreement with the Government that would guard any corporation undertaking the work against cut-throat competition." In return, the corporation would offer "the maintenance of the roads for instance, and the use of a percentage of their stock for war purposes." We await developments.

Further, Colonel Maude would utilise the five great rivers of the Punjab and waken up the railway by water-competition. Just as the Germans fell trees in the upper course of the Elbe, drift them down to the borders of Saxony and saw them up into rough planks, then knock the planks together and load the construction with non-perishable goods, and float the whole show down to Hamburg and realise good prices, so would Colonel Maude set his company to do in the Punjab, carrying grain and realising the planks at Karachi. "Such competition would soon bring the railway company to reason, with the probable result that the wheat-bearing area in the districts would in a short time be doubled, and when famine prevailed the prices would keep this wheat in the country." So for the navigable canals in the North-West Provinces and the Punjab. Will the "substantial capitalists" jump at the prospect? "If the wealth of India were invested in undertakings giving greater mobility to the population," Colonel Maude thinks, "famines would lose much of their intensity." "The people of India resent our interference" in precautionary measures in case of epidemics, "because they are ignorant; they are ignorant because they are sedentary; they are sedentary because there is not that incentive to motion which a thriving industry invariably supplies."

Mr. J. W. Coombes, a student sent over by the Madras Government to take the textile course in the Technical School at Manchester, has been awarded honours in the subject of cotton-weaving—first-class in designing, and second-class in mill management. He also recently obtained a prize for design at the National Competition at South Kensington. We congratulate both Mr. Coombes and the Madras Government. This is all in the right direction.

Remittances on India for 20 lakhs were on Wednesday offered for tender by the India Council, and applications amounting to Rs. 4,28,25,000 were received at prices varying from 1s. 3d. and 29-32nds to 1s. 3d. and 31-32nds. The following amounts were allotted, viz.:—In bills, Rs. 10,34,000 on Calcutta, Rs. 3,45,000 on Bombay, and Rs. 3,45,000 on Madras, all at an average of 1s. 3.937d.; and in telegraphic transfers, Rs. 2,76,000 on Calcutta, at an average of 1s. 3.968d. Tenders for bills at 1s. 3d. and 15-16ths and for transfers at 1s. 3d. and 31-32nds will receive about 17 per cent. Later the Council sold bills for Rs. 1,65,000 on Bombay and Rs. 10,000 on Madras at 1s. 3d. and 31-32nds. Last week remittances for Rs. 20,78,739 were sold for £137,780, making the total disposed of from April 1 to Tuesday night Rs. 7,21,42,295, producing £4,785,582. Next week 20 lakhs will again be offered.

"AN UNADJUSTED INDIAN CLAIM."

AN EPISODE OF THE HOME CHARGES.

UNDER the first heading Mr. W. C. Madge has been for some time past carrying on a vigorous and insistent argument in the columns of the "Saturday Review." In the last issue of our contemporary (August 10), he sets out the main facts in summary. It may be remembered that Lord Northbrook recapitulated the history of the military section of the Home Charges in a great speech delivered in the House of Lords on May 15, 1893 (INDIA, vol. iv., Suppl. p. 52). He explained that the effective charge means "the cost of the soldier recruited and trained in England before he goes to India for service"; and that the non-effective charge "is simply that amount of the pensions and allowances of that kind paid to officers and men who have served in India, which is charged by the War Office upon the Indian Revenue." The point raised by Mr. Madge has to do with this non-effective charge. On a matter of fact, Lord Northbrook's experience might readily be taken without any special certificate; but he himself advanced a claim to exceptional knowledge of this particular matter, which it seems well to repeat here. Not only was he an Indian Viceroy, and, as Lord Kimberley said, "was for a long time connected with the War Office," but on his return from India he presided over a Commission "to enquire as to the rate that should be paid in respect of the effective charges out of the Indian revenue," serving (with some intervals) for fourteen years, and having had the question before him, "I may say, for twenty years." Now what was Lord Northbrook's statement?

In 1822, he said, the East India Company bargained with the Government to pay £60,000 a year "as a payment in full for all the non-effective charges for the troops serving in India then and in the future, and the Government thought the East India Company behaved exceedingly handsomely in the matter." This arrangement lasted the remainder of the time of the Company. And what then? In 1861, the non-effective charge per man was fixed by arrangement at £3 10s., this charge, "it was distinctly understood, being only for one year." A protest was at once made by Sir Charles Wood (afterwards Lord Halifax). "It will be clearly understood," said Sir Charles, "the present temporary arrangement is not to be regarded as an admission that it is one which India can be justly called upon to pay, when the benefit to England of the employment of so large a portion of the army in India is taken into consideration." In consequence of a very large increase in the number of British troops, occasioned by the disbandment or abolition of the old local armies, the non-effective charge under the new arrangement rose from £60,000 to £225,000 a year. Lord Northbrook shall describe the next step in his own words (Hansard):—

> That arrangement ceased in 1870, when a most complicated and extraordinary plan was imposed upon India, under which, year by year, the actual pensions India was supposed to be called upon to pay in consequence of the abolition of purchase in the British Army were capitalized, and the capital value, year by year, was charged upon India by the British Exchequer. This arrangement lasted for 14 years, until 1884, and the effect had been an enormous increase in the charges on the revenue of India, an increase which was not less than four millions in those years for pensions, and so on.

Lord Northbrook then cited the opinions of Lord Kimberley and Lord Ripon:—

> Now, my noble friend, the present Secretary of State for India (Lord Kimberley) at that time made a representation, which I wish to recall to his recollection. "He wished to point out to the Treasury that this charge ought not fairly to be put upon the ratepayer of India. Part of the increase was incurred owing to measures carried into effect by the English Government for purposes unconnected with India, such as the abolition of the purchase system and compulsory retirement of officers." (Hear, hear.) I am glad my noble friend (the Earl of Ripon) is now in his place, because he has filled the office of Governor-General of India, and has been also Secretary of State for War, and no man is more thoroughly conversant with the whole of the arrangements in respect of the changes in the Army charges. Now, what did my noble friend say to (? for) his colleagues on this matter? "The argument, as regards the abolition of the purchase system, appears to us to be particularly strong. It certainly appears to us exceedingly unjust that the Indian revenue should be called upon to bear any charge in order to get rid of this peculiarly English matter." That was the opinion of my noble friend, and the Government of that time.

As Mr. Madge sums up the points, Lord Northbrook "authoritatively defined the charge (1) as an annual payment of a capitalised value, (2) as a payment demanded on account of the Purchase System, and (3) as a payment begun in 1870 and ending in 1884, and thus standing disentangled from all earlier and later payments." Further, it appears that Lords Kimberley and Ripon also regarded the charge as an injustice to India; and it is to be noted that Lord Kimberley in his reply not only made no contradiction but, on the contrary, said: "I can assure my noble friend that in the position I have the honour to hold I welcome the assistance he gives me in sustaining the very unequal combat we are always engaged in between (? with) these two Departments" (the Treasury and the War Office).

Indeed the representation of the India Office thrust persistently and remorselessly under the heel of the War Office and the Treasury is pitiful in the extreme. Lord Northbrook had said: "Since that time (1861) the charges have gradually increased quite regardless of the repeated remonstrances of the successive Governments of India and Secretaries of State for India in Council, and up to the present time (1893) no equitable arrangement has been come to." Lord Kimberley, in his reply, admitted as much, almost in identical terms; and he furnished illustrative examples of the hopeless pressure to which the India Office has constantly to submit. "Pressure is brought to bear upon members in the other House for some change in our system, and the expense of the army is accordingly increased. The War Office yield to the pressure, and the India Office finds itself saddled with additional charges in respect to which it has really had no voice." But, as Mr. Madge points out, he "neither contradicted the plain assertion that the payment" now in question "was made on account of the abolished purchase system, nor offered any apology for the financial phenomenon of a capitalised value, essentially of the nature of a composition or quittance, being exacted from year to year for fourteen years." Viscount Cross, who followed Lord Kimberley in the debate, said: "No one knows better than myself the difficulties a Secretary of State has to bear when he has the Treasury and the War Office against him. I quite agree there has been very great hardship in India, and that a considerable unnecessary expense has fallen upon India." Liberal or Tory, it matters not which, the Secretary for India is dominated and trampled upon by the Home Departments. Viscount Cross expressly stated that he looked to the new representation under the Indian Councils Amendment Act for effective assistance. "I think," he said, "we shall hear very much more about the Home Charges from India than we have hitherto done. The result of that will be a lever to the Secretary of State, which I hope he will use." And he added this (Hansard):—

> Some time ago I got the Indian Government to appoint a very carefully selected committee to go into the whole of those charges. The report is private, and I cannot therefore place it on the Table; but the Committee went through every charge, and I believe that most of their recommendations have been carried out. . . . . I am certain that in the course of a few years the Indian people will force us to do them justice.

Thus, Lord Northbrook's vain search for justification of the surcharge in published documents is linked with the acknowledged existence of a private report—"private" without the smallest public reason—which may or may not have the effects attributed to it by the judgment of Viscount Cross.

Well, we might have expected that the Indian Expenditure Commission would probe this ugly matter to the bottom. Mr. Madge tells us what the Commission did with it and comments upon it with just severity:—

> The Commission has made its Report, but, while dealing with ordinary military charges from paragraph 252 to paragraph 290, and skimming over the extraordinary charge in question in paragraph 291—and thus differentiating the latter from the former report—has furnished no explanation on the point on which one was most needed. What is very curtly said on that point is this:—"From 1870-1 to 1883-4 the Government of India capitalised and paid down its share of the pensions granted in each year to officers and men of the British Army. Capitalisation then ceased, and from April 1, 1884, the Government of India has paid the proportion attributable to service in India of the pensions granted subsequently to that date." The question is at once suggested by this further endorsement of Lord Northbrook's statement, why all mention is so carefully avoided of the precise difference between the amounts paid in each of the fourteen years from 1870-1 to 1883-4, and that paid in 1884-5. Wide variations in pensions of any two contiguous years such as 1883-4 and

1884-5 are inadmissible, and any variation at all calls for the clearest exposition. If the difference here hinted at between the payments of two years under a head of charge, the real facts covered by which have undergone no material change in that period, is arithmetically expressible, some expression of it was surely due to the Indian interests confided to the Commission in its fiduciary quality. Its report therefore seems defective both in failing to mention the amount of the difference, and omitting to furnish any reason for the departure of the War Office from the rule of accounts according to which a capitalisation is recognised as a single deposit from whose interest a recurring periodical charge is met and not an annually recurring payment. Proof of substantial equality in the amounts paid all through could alone excuse any preference for one way of making up accounts over another; whereas any marked difference in the amounts must give birth to instant suspicion, however unjust, of a cooked account. Any excess in older over later pension payments would surely of itself establish an unquestionable right to a refund.

The question is thus veiled in official darkness, through which one can discern only the traces of a heavy grievance. Lord Northbrook estimated the burden of it in figures. "I must say," he remarked, "that I think it is monstrous that India should have to pay the extra charge for the abolition of purchase in this country. As to the four millions increase in the non-effective charge in 14 years up to 1884, I think half of that should be borne by the Imperial Exchequer. The Imperial Government should take over two millions." But the Imperial Government plumes itself on its virtue in respect of the £257,000 a year. The Indian people, however, cannot regard the account as closed. Evidently there is little chance of official enlightenment or redress from the parties responsible here, unless indeed the Native members of the Indian Legislative Councils exert themselves in the manner anticipated by Viscount Cross, and furnish the Secretary of State with a sufficient lever to raise the curtain that hangs over the transaction and "force us to do justice to the Indian people." True, we ought not, benevolent as we are, to require the application of force; but then we do. The difficulties of the Chancellor of the Exchequer may be what they may: they at least cannot be allowed to stand in the way of adequate reparation.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, Thursday.

For the first time since the election of 1895 the Salisbury Government has had to submit to the humiliation of defeat in the House of Commons. The event happened last Monday. Mr. Ritchie, as the pilot of the Factories Bill, had defied the warnings alike of friend and foe not to persist in his course of ignoring the demand of the textile operatives for a slight extension of their Saturday half-holiday. It is currently reported that the Home Secretary would have been willing to listen to reason had it not been for the evil counsel of the brothers Balfour. Whether that was so or not, members did not stay to inquire. As many as thirty Unionists threw off their allegiance and assisted the Opposition in inflicting a sharp reverse on the Government. Lancashire of course led the way in this revolt, as Lancashire always does where bread-and-butter politics are concerned. A scene of hilarious excitement ensued on the announcement of the figures, Ministers, meanwhile, sitting with drooping heads and angry faces.

All-night sittings have been the regular portion of Parliamentarians for the last two weeks, and still the too abundant feast of business loads the table. The Indian Budget, of course, has been relegated to the bottom of the menu. It will probably receive less attention, if that be possible, than has been bestowed on any statement of Indian finances since the palmy days of the Forward movement. The reign of helter-skelter has set in within the last few days, and small indeed will be the remnant that stays to consider the case of India. Meanwhile, notices of motion on the subject stand on the paper in the names of Mr. Caine, Mr. Herbert Roberts, Mr. Caldwell, and Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree.

By a judicious exercise of forethought—to adopt Mr. Winston Churchill's phrase—Ministers and their supporters were enabled to enjoy a holiday at Blenheim last Saturday and to enhance their enjoyment by abusing their opponents. The "forethought" on which they were congratulated by the Duke of Marlborough's cousin consisted in a Parliamentary revolution. Votes to the extent of £67,000,000 were rammed through Committee, and afterwards through the House of Commons without a word of discussion, in order that Ministerialists might be at liberty to disport themselves at a party demonstration. Not only so, but one of the sittings of last week was prolonged from three o'clock in the afternoon till six next morning. The Government had no alternative but to enforce an all-night sitting. At least they had only one alternative—they might have called members together on Saturday. That, however, would have interfered with the picnic, and accordingly the suggestion was not entertained.

Closure is rapidly becoming a Ministerial obsession. The gag and the guillotine are Mr. Balfour's favourite, indeed his only, instruments of Parliamentary administration. Mr. Chamberlain has informed a derisive world that he means to apply the same principle to the war in South Africa, which by a new rule of procedure is to be brought to an end on September 15. The date is ominous, for it is the anniversary of the dissolution by which the Government signalised the original end of the war. But the closure has failed even in the House of Commons. A Redistribution Bill will be necessary, Mr. Chamberlain says, before the Nationalists can be reduced to subjection. Schemes of redistribution are not usually heralded in this vindictive spirit. What the Colonial Secretary wants is not so much redistribution as retribution, with himself as the avenging deity. Meanwhile the Nationalists are inclined to laugh at his threats. Redistribution must be followed by an immediate dissolution of Parliament, and the Government are not so anxious to avenge their failures on Ireland as to pay the price of a general election for the privilege.

In denouncing the Liberals as he did in his speech at Blenheim for associating with the Nationalists, Mr. Chamberlain overlooked the fact that he and his colleagues had just completed a bargain with the Irish members which was strongly opposed by the regular Opposition. Even as late as Friday night, the Government had to come to an understanding with Mr. John Redmond before the latter would liberate them for their Saturday beanfeast. Three days earlier, Mr. Balfour, in order to conciliate Irish opinion in the House, had lavished fulsome praises on the Nationalist leader's eloquence, which he declared conferred a lustre on the debates of Parliament. Incidents of this character, supplemented by the Tory-cum-Nationalist alliance of Tuesday night, serve to recall Pitt's despairing dictum that no Minister can be an honest man.

After a somewhat perfunctory discussion the Royal Titles Bill has been carried by majorities of more than three to one. The minority on the second reading was almost exclusively composed of Irish members, one of whom, Mr. Swift MacNeill, had ridiculed the addition to his Majesty's title as the tinsel invention of an ex-Republican. According to Mr. Balfour the form of the Bill followed the precedent of 1876 when Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. Mr. MacNeill, however, asserted that that was no precedent. "For how," he asked, "can any act be a precedent which in itself was based on a false precedent?" The point was too subtle for a languorous afternoon in August. Colonel Saunderson evaded it by accusing the philosopher of disloyalty.

Imitating a recent literary fashion, Mr. William Redmond favoured the House with some edifying extracts from the letters that passed between Henry VIII and Leo X, when the latter conferred on the English King the title of Defender of the Faith. Quite in the manner of a modern author Henry sent a complimentary copy of one of his theological pamphlets to the Pope inscribing it with the dedication, "Henry King of England sends thee, Leo X, this work as a pledge of fidelity and friendship," and accompanied the book with a letter, in which he expressed his determination to "defend and protect as well with the pen as with the sword the Holy Roman Church." Naturally enough, the Pope returned the compliment by greeting the King as his most dear son, and thereafter conferred upon him the title which now, in Mr. Balfour's words, has come to represent a long and interesting chapter of English history. After all, the term, Defender of the Faith, may be any man's property, and there was little reality in Mr. Redmond's attempted action for trespass.

CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

THURSDAY, August 8.—In the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour stated that the Royal Declaration Bill, having failed to satisfy those who had demanded legislation of this kind, and being threatened with opposition from other quarters, could not be proceeded with.

In the House of Lords, Lord Salisbury moved that an address should be presented to the King, expressing the deep concern of the House at the great loss his Majesty had sustained by the death of the Empress Frederick, condoling with his Majesty on the melancholy occasion, and praying his Majesty to be graciously pleased to express to the German Emperor the profoundest sympathy of the House with the Imperial and Royal Family. Lord Spencer seconded, recalling personal recollections of the Empress, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Colonel Sir George Sydenham Clarke, K.C.M.G., R.E., has been appointed Governor of Victoria.

Telegrams between the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India as to the censure passed on the Indian Government in the despatch of August 4 in regard to the recent Cooper's Hill memorials were published. Lord George Hamilton pointed out that the censure applied, not to the action of the Indian Government generally, but only to the method in which certain claims were admitted and calculated. There was no intention to cast the smallest slur on the Indian Government.

Count von Waldersee landed at Hamburg on his return from China.

FRIDAY, August 9.—The text of a proclamation issued on Wednesday by Lord Kitchener at the instance of the Government was published. It requires "all commandants, field-cornets, and leaders of armed bands, being burghers of the late Republics," and "all members of the Governments of the late Orange Free State and the late South African Republic" to surrender before September 15 on penalty of being "permanently banished from South Africa." It further sets out that "the cost of the maintenance of the families of all burghers in the fields who shall not have surrendered by September 15 shall be recoverable from such burghers, and shall be a charge upon their property movable and immovable in the two colonies." Mr. Chamberlain stated in the House of Commons that the proclamation had the full approval of Lord Kitchener. The substance of it appears to have originated in suggestions made by the Natal Government.

The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London paid a State visit to the Glasgow Exhibition.

The Government of the United States published a telegram from Mr. Rockhill, stating that the delay in signing the final protocol of the agreement between the Powers and China is due to objections raised by Great Britain against the International Commission for the revision of the tariff.

Prince Henry of Orleans, eldest son of the Duc de Chartres, died at Saigon in Cochin China, in his 34th year.

SATURDAY, August 10.—Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain spoke in the grounds of Blenheim Palace to a gathering of some 3,000 delegates from Conservative and Unionist Associations. Mr. Balfour said the Unionist Alliance had now become an indissoluble alliance, and referred to what he called a strange and wholly unexampled Parliamentary phenomenon—the survival, in undiminished strength, by the present administration of a General Election after five years of official life and public criticism. This was due not so much to their own merits as to the demerits of their opponents, who were an unpatriotic party. He compared the tactics of the Opposition to the tactics of the Boers —guerilla warfare—no pitched battles, no hard-fought fields, but small obstructions, small rallies, affairs of outposts, insignificant annoyances. Such tactics would fail in both cases.

Mr. Chamberlain said the Liberal party was sinking deeper and deeper into the "Pro-Boer" and "Little Englander" marsh, and not all the Liberal Imperialists could ever extricate it. He scoffed at "Imperialism in brackets"—referring to Lord Rosebery's suggestion of the title "Liberal (Imperialist) League." The Liberal Imperialists, he said, were good but weak men who were trying to ride two horses at once without getting a fall. They could not at the same time support Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman and preserve the Empire. The reason for the Liberal Unionist position had not weakened during the last fifteen years: the Liberal Home Rulers had not renounced their heresies; he believed the Liberals were willing, as before, to sell the interests of the country for 80 Irish votes.

Lord Newton, addressing a Conservative meeting at Newton-le-Willows, condemned the Government's scheme of Army Reform as unreal.

Mr. A. B. Markham, M.P., speaking at the annual demonstration of the Nottinghamshire miners, said the recent speeches of the Colonial Secretary on the war made him, as one knowing South Africa, tremble for the future not only of his own country but of the whole British Empire. If the Government persisted in their present policy, we should assuredly lose South Africa.

Lord Milner sailed from Southampton to resume his duties in South Africa.

Lord Kitchener reported that a British blockhouse near Brandfort, in the heart of the Orange River Colony, was rushed and captured by the Boers after severe fighting on the previous Wednesday night. The British loss was one killed and three wounded. The Commander-in-Chief also stated that General Elliot is sending into line 70 prisoners and large quantities of stock and waggons. A Maseru telegram stated that a Black Watch patrol surrounded a small Boer force on the Koransberg mountain and captured 13. The leader, Laurens, would not surrender and was killed in the fighting. Telegrams from the Transvaal reported some further captures by the various British columns at work in the colony. Renewed Boer activity was reported from Cape Colony. A commando some 400 strong, believed to be Kritzinger's, had broken back towards the Graaf Reinet district. Kritzinger was reported to have shot near Steytlerville another native attached to the British forces.

SUNDAY, August 11.—Signor Crispi, the famous Italian statesman, died at Naples, at the age of 82.

MONDAY, August 12.—In the House of Commons Mr. Balfour moved the second reading of the Royal Titles Act. He criticised Lord Rosebery's suggestion that "Britains" should be read instead of "British Dominions." He reminded the House that in 1876, when a change was made in the Royal title by the addition of "Empress of India," an earnest plea for the recognition of the colonies was advanced by the late Mr. W. E. Forster, and received sympathetically by Mr. Disraeli. Again, in 1887, the colonial desire for inclusion was expressed at the conference then held, and now that desire was being fulfilled. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman regarded the proposed addition as only the acknowledgment and expression of an existing fact. He was glad that the Government had refused to entertain any of the fantastic suggestions put forward and had remained content with an unadorned statement of fact, which the colonies had sensibly approved. The word "dominions" was perhaps not happy. He submitted for consideration words like these—"King of Great Britain and Ireland and of the Colonies and Dependencies thereof." Irish members, connecting the Bill with Mr. Chamberlain's policy of Imperial development, opposed it as inappropriate, needlessly vague, liable to misinterpretation, a slur upon Ireland, and—of Birmingham manufacture. The second reading was carried by 210 votes against 63. On the Factory and Workshops Acts Amendment and Consolidation Bill the Government sustained a defeat by 163 votes against 141.

Lord Kitchener reported that Andries Wessels, the peace envoy, alleged to have been shot by the Boers, had been released by the British columns. A body of 50 burgher police were ambushed near Pretoria on Saturday evening; four were killed, two wounded, and four made prisoners. A telegram from the Governor of Cape Colony confirmed the report that on August 7 some Boers captured and shot in cold blood an unarmed Native constable at Steytleville. Lord Kitchener telegraphed that the return of the enemy's losses for the past week was the largest yet made in a single week. It includes 30 Boers killed, 20 wounded, 685 taken prisoners, including Mr. Wolmarans, late chairman of the First Volksraad, and 85 surrenders, with large captures of ammunition, wagons, horses, cattle, etc.

A deputation of shipowners protested strongly to the Premier of the Australian Commonwealth against the educational test in the Immigration Bill as impracticable. Mr. Barton promised careful consideration of the representations made to him.

Increasing discontent was reported from Canton on account of the house tax, the Cantonese objecting to contribute to the indemnity on the ground that the Kwang provinces were not concerned in the late outrages.

Professor Nordenskjold, the famous Polar explorer, died at Stockholm, in his 70th year.

TUESDAY, August 13.—In the House of Commons the Royal Titles Bill passed through Committee without amendment, Mr. W. Redmond's amendment to disuse the title "Defender of the Faith" being negatived by 188 votes against 60. The Pacific Cable Bill was read a third time. There was a prolonged and warm discussion over a clause relating to laundries in the Factory and Workshops Act Amendment and Consolidation Bill, with the result that the clause was withdrawn, so that conventual and other charitable laundries are not brought under inspection.

In the House of Lords, Lord Hardwicke explained the recent military events near Aden. We give his account fully in our Parliamentary record.

The funeral of the Empress Frederick took place at the mausoleum near the Friedenskirche at Potsdam. Memorial services were simultaneously held in London, Edinburgh, Crathie, Paris, the Hague, Constantinople, Gibraltar, and many other places.

WEDNESDAY, August 14.—In the House of Commons the Naval Works Bill, sanctioning a sum that brings the total estimated expenditure on the Navy up to £27,500,000, was read a second time after a stiff debate. The Military Works Bill was also read a second time, after a division. The Royal Titles Bill was read a third time, after a division challenged by the Nationalist members. A number of other Bills were advanced a stage.

Sir William Laird, late Chairman of the North British Railway Company, died at Glasgow, in his 72nd year.

Sir Thomas Lipton sailed from Liverpool for New York to contest once more the America Cup.

General French returned on Monday to Middelburg from Graaf Reinet, whence he had been conducting operations. He was well satisfied with the work done during the past fortnight. From the Orange River Colony it was reported that Colonel Rimington's column arrived at Kroonstad on the previous Friday from Ntrecht, bringing in 23 prisoners and 60 wagons. Near Heilbron a party of 25 Boers were trapped; three were killed, five wounded, and 12 taken prisoners. A Jagersfontein telegram stated that Commandant Pretorius, who was wounded some weeks ago, had since died. Two Vienna journals criticised unfavourably Lord Kitchener's proclamation. According to a Brussels telegram quoted by the Vienna Correspondent of the "Times." Dr. Leyds asserted that the proclamation would have the contrary effect to that intended.

The Shanghai correspondent of the "Times" reported that the reduction of the British garrison to a strength below that of the German, leaving the German commander senior military officer, was causing the keenest resentment among the British community.

INDIAN LOANS GUARANTEE.

AN EMERGENT ILLUSTRATION.

(By an Anglo-Indian.)

The miscarriage of the proposed Indian sterling loan of £3,000,000 last month must have recalled attention to the often pressed, always postponed demand for a British Treasury guarantee in support of the public debt of India. No doubt the date, fixed too long beforehand, for placing that large order on our Money Market fell due in an unlucky week. This circumstance and its immediate bearing on the feeling of the City regarding the price of 98, at which the loan was offered, were fully explained by the "Investors' Review" as quoted in the issue of India for July 26. Nevertheless, making all allowance for these temporary and surface obstacles, had the circular inviting tenders included the term "guaranteed by the British Treasury," instead of the usual rubric "on security of the revenues of India," the loan would have been readily taken up, not by stockjobbers, indeed, but by, or on behalf of, permanent investors. This, one may venture to affirm, would have been the result; though we must allow full weight to what is said, by the authority cited, regarding the "slur on the credit of the country" which has been "inevitably" incurred by our sinking scores of millions on the "unending war" in South Africa.

As to the general question of the financial effect of a Treasury guarantee for Indian loans, it may be admitted that it could not now be so conspicuous as it would have been forty years ago, when from two to three per cent. of the issue price would have been saved to India. Here let the reader pause a moment and consider how many millions that genuine Imperial policy would have been worth to our fellow-citizens in India. At that period John Bright urged, and, the then, Lord Stanley admitted, that the United Kingdom was, as it is now, really responsible for every pound of the Indian debt. Investors see that quite clearly in these later years; but the lack of direct specific guarantee leaves a margin of difference, which, though it is sport to stockbrokers, imposes a wholly fictitious burden on India's millions. So stands, firm as ever, the argument in equity on behalf of a British security for Indian loans.

It must be admitted that in presence of the profligate borrowing for this profitless war this is not a favourable moment for pressing our claim: neither should it be forgone. It is not India's fault that the present monetary situation is adverse to her forty years' suit in this regard. And as hap will have it, the plea becomes emergent in these closing days of the Session. Let readers turn to India's parliamentary record for July 31 (p. 59), and they will see how the claim crops up with obvious persistence in the eyes of those who can perceive. The Indian Secretary has introduced a Bill empowering him to raise a (sterling) loan not exceeding £3,220,900 for paying off or redeeming the debentures of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway "on the security of the revenues of India." Here is one of the strongest cases for the aid of the Empire-credit being granted to lighten India's burden. In answer to the member for Denbighshire on August 1 (India, vol. xvi, p. 71), Lord George Hamilton admitted that the Indian railway system is indebted to the general revenues of India in the enormous sum of Rx. 57,800,000. In the running up of this debt to the Indian taxpayer this very Great Indian Peninsula Railway has had a large share, and its shareholders in the United Kingdom have derived profit therefrom. Hence the very least that should be done in mitigation of this new burden is that it should be modified to the small extent which would be gained by a Treasury guarantee. Is it vain to appeal to the House of Commons to grant this small mercy—especially seeing that it did not make that grant of some five millions humbly prayed for last year, and for lack of which millions of villagers are gasping? It is to be hoped that at least a division will be taken on this Bill as an object lesson illustrating the general principle.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

PROSPECTS MUCH IMPROVED.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following telegram from the Viceroy, dated 10th August:—

"Famine prospects much improved by heavy rain, and prospects now favourable generally. Total rainfall below average of the period over a large part of country, and in Gujerat has only been third of local average; but falls have been timely, and deficiency has caused no material change in the prospects of the crops. Prices falling, but still high. In Central Provinces, North Deccan, and in part of Madras and Assam, prices have risen slightly, and on the fall in Gujerat. Number on gratuitous relief and on relief work in Bombay remains larger than expected, Kaira alone showing substantial decrease, from 52,000 to 11,000 since middle July. Decrease not extended Ahmedabad. In Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Poona, numbers stationary; and have increased in Satara and Belgaum.

"Expediency of reducing extent relief under consideration with Government of Bombay. Reports from affected districts indicate no cause for anxiety in physical condition of the people. High prices reported to be causing hardship to poorest classes in limited areas, Madras and Assam; but minor measures of relief already taken will be sufficient for their assistance till prices fall with autumn harvest. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 448,000; Bombay Native States, 42,000; Baroda, 31,000; Hyderabad, 8,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 1,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, nil. Total 537,000."

THE BOMBAY LAND REVENUE BILL.

AMENDED TEXT.

The following is the text of Bombay Bill No. IV. of 1901 ("A Bill to amend the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879") as amended by the Select Committee on June 24:—

Whereas, it is expedient to amend the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879, in manner hereinafter appearing: It is enacted as follows:—

1.—(1) This Act may be called the Bombay Land Revenue Code Amendment Act, 190—.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2.—In the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879, hereinafter called the Code, in section 3 (9), for the word "vacant" the words "unploughed ridge or" shall be substituted.

3.—(1) In sub-clause (b) of the first paragraph of section 48 of the Code, before the words "from which" the words "appropriated for any purpose" shall be inserted.

(2) For the second paragraph of the same section, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"And the assessment fixed under the provisions of this Act upon any land appropriated for any one of the above purposes shall, when such land is appropriated for any other of the said purposes, notwithstanding that the term, if any, for which such assessment was fixed may not have expired, be liable to be altered and fixed at a different rate by such authority and subject to such rules as to the fixing and periodical revision thereof as the Governor in Council prescribes in this behalf."

4.—For section 52 of the Code, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"52. On all lands which are not wholly exempt from the payment of land revenue, or on which the assessment has not been fixed under the provisions of section 102 or 106, the assessment of the amount to be paid as land revenue shall, subject to rules or orders made in this behalf under section 214, be fixed at the discretion of the Collector, for such period as he may, by general or special orders of Government in this behalf, be authorised to prescribe, and the amounts due according to such assessment shall be levied on all such lands:

"Provided that in the case of lands partially exempt from land revenue, or the liability of which to payment of land revenue is subject to special conditions or restrictions, respect shall be had in the fixing of the assessment and the levy of the revenue to all rights legally subsisting, according to the nature of the said rights."

5.—Any assessment of land revenue heretofore fixed by the Collector, which expressly purports, or may be reasonably held to have been intended, to have been fixed under section 52, shall be valid and deemed to have been fixed under that section as amended by the foregoing section of this Act, and the amounts due according to such assessment shall, until duly revised or altered, continue to be levied.

6.—In section 56 of the Code, the words "freed from all tenures, incumbrances, and rights created by the occupant or holder or any of his predecessors in title, or in anywise subsisting as against such occupant holder" are hereby repealed, and at the end of the section the following shall be added, namely:—

"And such occupancy or alienated holding when disposed of, whether by sale as aforesaid, or by restoration to the defaulter, or by transfer to another person, or otherwise howsoever, shall be deemed to be freed from all tenures, rights, incumbrances, and equities theretofore created in favour of any person other than Government in respect of such occupancy or holding."

7.—In the penultimate paragraph of section 61 of the Code, the words "he may have," where they occur before the word "raised" and before the word "erected," are hereby repealed.

8.—(1) In sections 67 and 68 of the Code, after the word "terms," the words "or conditions" shall be inserted.

(2) To section 68 of the Code the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided that nothing in this or any other section shall

make it, or shall be deemed ever to have made it, unlawful for the Collector at any time to grant permission to any person to occupy any unalienated unoccupied land, for such period and on such conditions as he may, subject to the orders of Government, prescribe, and in any case the occupancy shall, whether a survey settlement has been extended to the land or not, be held only for the period and subject to the conditions so prescribed."

9.—To section 70 of the Code the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided that in any case where the occupancy or interest of the occupant in the land is not transferable without the previous sanction of the Collector, and such sanction has not been granted to the transfer which has been made or ordered by the Court or on which the Court's decree or order is founded,

(a) such occupancy or interest shall not be liable to the process of any Court, and such transfer shall be null and void, and

(b) the Court, on receipt of a certificate under the hand and seal of the Collector, to the effect that any such occupancy or interest is not transferable without his previous sanction, and that such sanction has not been granted, shall remove any attachment or other process placed on, or set aside any sale of, or affecting, such occupancy or interest in the land."

10.—For section 73 of the Code the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"The right of occupancy shall, subject to the provisions contained in section 56, and to any conditions lawfully annexed to the occupancy, and save as otherwise prescribed by law, be deemed an heritable and transferable property."

11.—After section 73 of the Code the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"73A.—(1) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing section, in any tract or village to which Government may, by Notification published before the introduction therein of an original survey settlement under section 103, declare the provisions of this section applicable, the occupancy or interest of the occupant in the land shall not after the date of such Notification be transferable without the previous sanction of the Collector.

"(2) Government may, by Notification in the 'Bombay Government Gazette,' from time to time exempt any part of such tract or village or any person or class of persons from the operation of this section."

12.—After section 79 of the Code the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"79A.—Any person unauthorizedly occupying, or wrongfully in possession of, any land,

"(a) to the use and occupation of which he has ceased to be entitled under any of the provisions of this Act, or

"(b) of which the occupancy right is not transferable without previous sanction under section 73A or by virtue of any condition lawfully annexed to the occupancy under the provisions of section 62, 67, or 68,

may be summarily evicted by the Collector."

13.—(1) In the first paragraph of section 122 of the Code, for the words "cause to be constructed or repaired," the words "specify, or cause to be constructed, laid out, maintained, or repaired" shall be substituted.

(2) In the second paragraph of the same section, between the words "construct" and "or repair," in the first two places where they occur, the words "lay out, maintain," shall be inserted, and in the third place where they occur the words "lay out" shall be inserted.

(3) For the last paragraph of the same section the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"The boundary marks shall be of such description, and shall be constructed, laid out, maintained or repaired in such manner, and shall be of such dimensions and materials, as may, subject to rules or orders made in this behalf under section 214, be determined by the Superintendent of Survey, according to the requirements of soil and climate."

14.—In section 124 of the Code, before the words "maintenance and repair" the words "construction, laying out" shall be inserted.

15.—To section 153 of the Code the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided that the Collector shall not declare any such occupancy or alienated holding to be forfeited—

"(a) unless previously thereto he shall have issued a proclamation and written notices of the intended declaration in the manner prescribed by sections 165 and 166 for sales of immoveable property, and

"(b) until after the expiration of at least fifteen days from the latest date on which any of the said notices shall have been affixed as required by section 166."

16.—In clause (g) of section 214 of the Code, after the words "survey settlement," the words "and the maintenance of boundary marks" shall be added.

SECTIONS OF THE CODE AFFECTED.

It will facilitate the understanding of this otherwise unintelligible specimen of "legislation by reference" if we reproduce (so far as seems necessary) the sections of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879 (Act V of 1879), to which reference is made:—

Section 3 (9).—"Boundary-mark" means any . . . . hedge, vacant strip of ground . . . .

Section 48.—The land-revenue leviable under the provisions of the Act shall be chargeable:

(a) upon land appropriated for purpose of agriculture;

(b) upon land from which any other profit or advantage than that ordinarily acquired by agriculture is derived;

(c) upon land appropriated for building sites.

And the assessment fixed under the provisions of this Act upon any land appropriated for any one of the above purposes shall be liable to be altered and fixed at a different rate when such land is appropriated for any other purpose, notwithstanding that the term, if any, for which such assessment was fixed may not have expired. And any land allowed by Government to be held free of assessment on condition of its being appropriated to one purpose shall become liable to assessment if at any time it is devoted to any other purpose.

Section 52.—On all lands not wholly exempt from payment of land-revenue, and not within the local operation of an order under section 95, the assessment of the amount to be paid as land-revenue shall be fixed at the discretion of the Collector, subject to rules or orders made in this behalf under section 214, and the amounts due according to such assessment shall be levied on all such lands:

Provided . . . . [The proviso is unchanged.]

Section 56.—Arrears of land-revenue due on account of land by any landholder shall be a paramount charge on the holding and every part thereof, failure in payment of which shall make the occupancy or alienated holdings, together with all rights of the occupant or holder over all trees, crops, buildings, and things attached to the land, liable to forfeiture, whereupon the Collector may levy all sums in arrear by sale of the occupancy or alienated holding, freed from all tenures, incumbrances, and rights created by the occupant or holder or any of his predecessors in title, or in anywise subsisting as against such occupant, or holder, or may otherwise dispose of such occupancy or alienated holding under rules or orders made in this behalf under section 214.

Section 57.—It shall be lawful for the collector, in the event of the forfeiture of a holding through any default in payment or other failure occasioning such forfeiture under the last section or any law for the time being in force, to take immediate possession of the land embraced within such holding and to dispose of the same by placing it in the possession of the purchaser or other person entitled to hold it according to the provisions of this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

Section 60.—Any person desirous of taking up unoccupied land which has not been alienated must, previously to entering upon occupation, obtain the permission in writing of the Mamlatdar or Mahalkari.

Section 61.—Any person who shall unauthorisedly occupy any land set apart for any special purpose, or any unoccupied land which has not been alienated, shall . . . .

The person unauthorisedly occupying any such land may be summarily evicted by the Collector, and any crop he may have raised on the land shall be liable to forfeiture, and any building or other construction he may have erected thereon shall also, if not removed by him after such written notice as the Collector may deem reasonable, be liable to forfeiture.

Section 62.—It shall be competent to the Collector, subject to such orders as may from time to time be made by the Governor in Council, to require the payment of a certain price for the occupancy, or to sell that right by auction, and to annex such conditions to the occupancy as may seem fit, before permission to occupy is granted under section 60.

The price of an occupancy shall include the price of the Government right to all trees not specially reserved under the provisions of section 40, and shall be recoverable as an arrear of land-revenue.

Section 68.—An occupant is entitled to the use and occupation of his land for the period, if any, to which his occupancy is limited, or, if the period is unlimited, or a survey settlement has been extended to the land, in perpetuity conditionally on payment of the amounts due on account of the land-revenue for the same, according to the provisions of this Act, or of any rules made under this Act, or of any other law for the time being in force, and on the fulfilment of any other terms lawfully annexed to his occupancy.

Section 70. If by a decree or order of a competent Court it shall be adjudged that the occupant is an inferior holder under another person, or that the occupancy is vested in another person, or if in the execution of such a decree or order the interest of the occupant in the land has been transferred by sale or otherwise to another person, such other person shall, on producing a certified copy of the decree or order, or the Court's certificate of the sale, or other transfer, be deemed to be the occupant and be dealt with accordingly, and on written application being made to the Collector for the purpose, such change shall be made in the entry of the registered occupant's name as the circumstances require.

Section 73.—The right of occupancy shall be deemed an heritable and transferable property subject to the provisions contained in section 56 or otherwise prescribed by law, and shall immediately pass to the person whose agreement to become occupant shall have been accepted by the Collector.

Section 122 provides for the construction and repair of boundary marks.

Section 124 assigns to the Collector the charge of boundary marks, and the duty of taking measures for their maintenance and repair.

Section 153.—The Collector may declare the occupancy or

alienated holding in respect of which an arrear of land revenue is due, to be forfeited to Government, and sell or otherwise dispose of the same under the provisions of sections 56 and 57, and credit the proceeds, if any, to the defaulter's accounts.

Section 214.—The Governor in Council may from time to time make and from time to time vary or rescind rules or orders not inconsistent with this Act: . . . .

(g) for the administration of any survey settlement.

OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons is as follows:—

Doubts have arisen as to the power of the Collector under the Bombay Land Revenue Code 1879, to grant an occupancy for a limited period in land to which a survey settlement has been extended or to impose a condition in the grant of the occupancy of any land that it may not be alienated.

2.—In many cases it would involve loss of revenue and would also inflict hardship on cultivators who insist on the acceptance of occupancies in perpetuity as in particular in certain tracts in Sind where lands are liable to be much affected by sudden diluvion, and also in some districts where the inhabitants are too poor to take up permanently land for the cultivation of which either heavy manuring or intervals of fallow would be necessary.

3.—This Bill has therefore been prepared for the purpose of enabling the Collector to allow lands to be taken up on short leases and special terms, which may include a restriction of transferability, whether by private contract or by attachment and sale under the orders of a Civil Court, notwithstanding that a survey settlement may have been extended to those lands, and at the same time the opportunity has been taken to remove all doubts as to the legal effect of such short leases heretofore granted.

4.—The provisions calculated to carry out these purposes will be found in section 68 A, which it is proposed to insert after section 68 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code 1879.

5.—In certain tracts to which the survey settlement has not yet been extended, the cultivating classes are so imperfectly civilised as to be incapable of protecting their own interests; and it is proposed that by an addition to section 73 of the Code the Governor in Council, when extending the survey settlement to such tracts, shall have power to notify certain tracts or villages within which the Collector may in his discretion declare any occupancies to be inalienable, without affecting in other respects the heritable rights of the occupant.

6.—Amendments are also introduced into sections 61 and 68 with a view to removing any doubt as to the powers of the Collector to summarily enforce such conditions by eviction.

7.—Section 48 has been amended with the object of removing doubt as to the authority by whom assessments may be altered according to the provisions of the section, and as to the liability of altered assessment to revision by such authority.

8.—Clause 4 of the Bill is designed to remove doubts which have arisen as to the authority of the Collector under section 52 of the Land Revenue Code, to assess unoccupied and unalienated lands which were within the operation of an order under section 95, but which were left unassessed at the settlement. The clause legalises all assessments hitherto fixed by the Collector in the circumstances described.

9.—Opportunity has also been taken to supply by the amendment of sections 3 (9) and 122 what has been felt for many years to be a "casus omissus," the word "vacant" as at present occurring in section 3 (9) being unsuitable, as the strips required to be maintained as boundary marks would not be unowned or unoccupied.

MAJORITY REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The following are the essential parts of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill, signed by the majority:—

2.—The Bill has been to a considerable extent revised and rearranged so as to avoid ambiguity. Most of the amendments have been suggested and drafted by the Remembrancer of Legal Affairs with that object. None of them affect the principles of the Bill, and the majority are merely verbal and require no explanation. The reasons for the adoption of the rest are briefly stated in the following paragraphs of this report:—

3.—Clause 3, Sub-Clause (1)—As Section 48 is being amended, we have taken the opportunity to insert a verbal amendment in sub-clause (b) which will bring it more in consonance with the wording of the second and third paragraphs of that section.

4.—Clause (3) Sub-Clause (2).—It is desirable that the rules mentioned should (as the existing rules do) specifically provide for the mode of fixing, as well as the periodical revision of, the assessment.

5.—Clauses 4 and 5 have been transposed, and the proposed new Section 68A has been put as a proviso to section 68, as this seems a preferable form in which to make the required amendments.

6.—New Clause 6.—From the wording of Section 56 of the Code as it now stands, it is not certain that an occupancy which after forfeiture is restored to the occupant or disposed of otherwise than by sale would be free from incumbrances and rights before created by the occupant. As the land on forfeiture becomes the absolute property of Government, there is manifestly no reason why the incumbrances and rights before created by the occupant should revive when it is disposed of otherwise than by sale. We have amended Section 56 so as to make it clear that an occupant to whom forfeited land has been restored or transferred otherwise than by sale will have the same rights as if he had purchased it.

In order, however, to provide as far as is practicable against the possibility of an occupancy or an alienated holding being declared forfeited and disposed of without the fact coming to the knowledge of persons who might otherwise avail themselves of the remedies against forfeiture contained in sections 80 and 81 of the Code, we have thought it advisable to add a proviso to section 153, under which the Collector must, prior to a declaration of forfeiture, issue a proclamation and notices, as in the case of sales of immoveable property (vide new Clause 15).

7.—New Clause 9.—Although an occupancy which is not transferable without the previous sanction of the Collector could not apparently be attached and sold by order of a Court without such sanction, we consider it desirable that it should be distinctly provided that such occupancy shall not be liable to the process of any Court unless sanction to transfer is granted by the Collector; and also, in order to prevent difficulties from Courts acting in ignorance of the condition annexed to any such occupancy, that the Court should be required, on receipt of a certificate from the Collector that the occupancy has been transferred without his sanction, to remove attachment or set aside the sale of it. We have added a proviso to Section 70 on the lines of Section 10 of Bombay Act III. of 1874 to effect these objects.

8.—Clause 9 (New Clause 11).—We have altered the form of the proposed proviso to section 73, as we consider it desirable that the declaration in cases of the kind contemplated should be made by a Government notification rather than by a proclamation of the Collector; and we have added a clause on the lines of Section 24 of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900, enabling Government to exempt as occasion may require particular lands or persons from any such restriction on transferability.

9.—New Clause 12.—The amendments proposed in Clauses 6 and 7 (new Clauses 7 and 8) of the Bill, empowering the Collector to evict summarily in the cases specified, have been embodied in a new Section 79A, as a more appropriate position in the Code for these provisions.

10.—New Clauses 14 and 16.—We think it desirable that it should be the duty of the Collector to take measures for the construction and laying out of boundary-marks, where they are required, as well as for their maintenance and repair; and that it should be placed beyond doubt that rules for the maintenance of boundary-marks can be framed under section 214. We have accordingly suggested slight additions to sections 124 and 214.

THE NEW ATTACK ON LAND SETTLEMENT IN INDIA.

Mr. J. M. Maclean has addressed the following letter to the "Manchester Guardian" (August 12):—How strangely history repeats itself. We are all of us familiar with the story told in Holy Writ of the astute and cruel device by means of which Joseph, the Jewish Prime Minister of Pharaoh, acquired the land of Egypt for the ruler of that country. "And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them; so the land became Pharaoh's." The Government of Bombay has evidently studied the Book of Genesis to some purpose. In the Western Presidency of India, for many years the most flourishing region in the dominions of the King of England, but now, alas! reduced to a state of misery and desolation which must have wrung tears of shame and anger from many an old Anglo-Indian, the famine has been sore in the land, and the people have not the means left to pay the heavy land tax which, under the name of land revenue, is demanded every year by the State from the cultivator of the soil. Arrears have consequently accumulated to the amount of 50 per cent., and the Government of Bombay is hard pressed for money. In these circumstances a happy idea has struck the advisers of Lord Northcote, for it is impossible to believe that the present Governor of Bombay, who is quite new to India, has himself hit upon a project which is driving the people to despair.

It is actually proposed to pass a law exacting the penalty of forfeiture throughout all Western India, and then regranting the land to the cultivators without the right of transfer which is now secured to them. This is the exact policy of Joseph applied on a larger scale by the paternal British Government. The thirty years' lease system of Bombay, with the rights of renewal and transfer, was mainly the work of the late Sir George Wingate, the founder of an illustrious Anglo-Indian family, and for the greater part of a century it has been the charter of the Bombay peasantry. Now it is to be swept away, and the peasant will be converted by a stroke of the pen into a mere tenant at will under the State landlord.

Surely this is Imperialism run mad. The contemplated policy is all the more iniquitous because the condition of the cultivator has been rendered less prosperous of late years not only by famine but by the arbitrary legislation of the Government in interfering with the free action of economical laws. To suit the convenience of Government and the desire of European officers and merchants to transmit money to England at a high rate of exchange the value of the rupee has been fixed at 1s. 4d. instead of 1s., and in this way the amount of money which the cultivator can obtain in return for his produce has been reduced by fully 30 per cent., or more than the whole net profit which he used to get from his field.

Imperial Parliament.

Monday, August 5.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

POPPY CULTIVATION.

Sir Joseph Pease asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been called to the increase in the acreage under poppy cultivation in India from 458,000 acres in 1894 to 613,000 acres in 1900, as shown in the Return No. 36 of the Moral and Material Progress of India; and, having regard to the declarations by Mr. W. H. Smith in 1891, and by Mr. Gladstone in 1893, to the effect that the policy of diminution of the cultivation of the poppy and consumption of opium would be continued, whether he could state what steps the Government were now taking for the furtherance of this policy, especially as regards the acreage under cultivation.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am aware that the area under poppy cultivation in British India was 613,000 acres in 1900 and only 458,200 acres in 1894. But the year 1894 was the worst of a series of years exceptionally unfavourable for the cultivation of the poppy, and the 1894 crop was the shortest on record. The present poppy area in British India is about what it was in 1885 and 1886, before the unfavourable seasons set in. As the production of opium in India varies from year to year, and has not increased but diminished on a comparison of the decade ending 1900 with the decade ending 1890, I am of opinion that no further steps to diminish the acreage under cultivation are required.

Thursday, August 8.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INCOME TAX.

Mr. Emmott asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could state approximately the amount of income tax collected in India from incomes between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000; and whether he had considered the advisability of raising the limit of income liable to income tax to Rs. 1,000 as soon as the finances of India permit.

Lord G. Hamilton: The amount of income tax collected in India from incomes between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 is approximately 36 lakhs out of a total of 193 lakhs. As at present advised I am not disposed to raise the existing exemptions. Any changes in this or any other form of taxation must be regulated by the future condition of Indian finance.

IMPORTED LABOUR FOR RHODESIA.

Sir Charles Dilke asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, as stated by the Administrator of Rhodesia at the opening of the Legislative Council at Salisbury, His Majesty's Government had given their sanction to the attempt now being made to obtain labour from Arabia; at what date such sanction was given; and by what stipulations on the part of the Government the sanction had been accompanied.

Lord G. Hamilton: The authorities at Aden were asked on June 29 to afford proper facilities for engaging Arab labourers for Southern Rhodesia. H.M. Government have stipulated that the Administration of Southern Rhodesia shall accept responsibility for the engagement of the labourers and their transport to Southern Rhodesia, and shall secure the enactment of legislation for their protection which shall satisfy the requirements of H.M. Government.

Sir C. Dilke: Will these labourers be obtained within the Aden district or from Southern Arabia in Turkish territory?

Lord G. Hamilton: We have no authority whatever over the population outside the British protectorate.

Sir Charles Dilke asked the Secretary of State for India whether, as stated at the general meeting of the Bulawayo Chamber of Mines, an official of the British South African Company had been at Aden with a view to obtaining Arab labour at that place, and whether the Indian Government had made any stipulations with regard to the labour traffic from Aden such as they were in the habit of making with regard to labour traffic from India; whether Mr. Hole had already engaged 1,000 labourers under the sanction of the Imperial authorities.

Lord G. Hamilton: The law governing emigration at Aden is the same as the law in India, but does not apply to Arabs from the interior who are not British subjects. In the present case therefore I have satisfied myself that the Administration of Southern Rhodesia will introduce suitable legislation for the protection of Arab labourers, and I have authorised the Aden authorities to give such facilities to the Company's official as may be proper. They will also see that the labourers fully understand the terms of their engagements and are under no compulsion to accept them. I have not heard what number of labourers Mr. Hole has engaged. I am aware of the risks to which any experiment of this kind is liable, and the Aden authorities will watch it carefully.

Sir C. Dilke: Have the Government of India any representative in Rhodesia who will communicate with them, or will the Colonial Office represent them?

Lord G. Hamilton: The Indian Government has no representative in Rhodesia, but I believe it is well known that these Arabs will not work unless they are well treated; and therefore you have in that fact a guarantee for their good treatment. (Opposition laughter.)

Sir W. Harcourt: May I ask the noble lord whether the legislation in Southern Rhodesia of which he spoke will be enacted before these men arrive or after?

Lord G. Hamilton: The general understanding is that the legislation shall be in force by the time they arrive.

Sir W. Harcourt asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the introduction into Rhodesia of persons of colour as immigrants for the purpose of labour were protected by provisions similar to those contained in the Trinidad Ordinance laid upon the Table of this House relating to "Immigrants introduced at private expense" (Acts 37-57) which permitted such introductions only on order by the Governor and making the contract of service dependent on the approval of protector and proof that the parties entered in the contract voluntarily and with full knowledge of its meaning; and also whether such immigrants had the protection secured to them equivalent to those provided by the same Ordinance in respect to Labour and Wages (Part VIII.):

And, whether he would lay upon the Table the Regulations in force in Rhodesia relating to labour whether of Natives or of immigrants.

Mr. Chamberlain: Up to the present time there has been practically no introduction of coloured labour from oversea, but with a view to providing for such introduction an Ordinance has been passed within the last month by the Southern Rhodesia Legislative Council. I understand that this Ordinance makes provision for the appointment of a protector of immigrants and for securing in other ways the proper treatment of immigrants, but the actual text has not yet reached me. The labour of Natives and immigrants in Southern Rhodesia has hitherto been regulated by the Cape law of master and servant, and I understand that an Ordinance codifying that law has been passed by the Legislative Council at their recent Session. A copy will be laid on the Table when it is received.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.
THE FAMINE COMMISSION REPORT.

Mr. Field asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could fix the date for the introduction of the Indian Budget; and whether the report of the Famine Commission would be printed and distributed previously to the discussion of the Budget?

Lord G. Hamilton: The Budget will be taken on the day fixed for the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill.

The report of the Famine Commission has within the last few days been received officially from India together with the comments of the Indian Government and a statement of the action which they propose to take upon it. I cannot undertake to present these papers to Parliament until I have had time to consider them in Council, and as the questions raised are complex and most important, I shall not be able to come to a conclusion upon them for some little time.

Mr. Field asked whether it was intended to take the Indian Budget next week or the week after.

Lord G. Hamilton: That depends upon circumstances over which I have no control.

INDIAN COTTON.

Mr. Harwood asked the Secretary of State for India if his attention had been called to the deterioration of the staple of Indian cotton and to the condition in which it was brought to market, and if the Government could do more than was now being done to bring about an improvement in this particular by methods similar to those which had been so successful in Egypt.

Lord G. Hamilton: I stated in answer to a question in this House on the 1st July that I was aware that the poor quality and condition of Indian cotton had been the subject of a good deal of attention in India and that efforts were being made by the Indian Agricultural Departments to obtain selected seed and to induce the cultivators to grow improved varieties. I am in communication with the Government of India on the subject.

Friday, August 9.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE INDIAN FINANCIAL YEAR.

Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would state whether it was intended to give effect to the proposals referred to in paragraph 69 of the unanimous Report on Indian Expenditure, to the effect that the Indian financial year should end on 31st December, in order that the Indian Accounts might be laid before Parliament at an earlier date than was now practicable, and with a view to the discussion on Indian Finance taking place earlier in the Session.

Lord G. Hamilton: I stated, in reply to a similar question on the 2nd of April last, that a proposal to make the Indian financial year end on the 31st December had been considered in 1873 by a Select Committee of this House, who reported against it; and that I had communicated the suggestion of the recent Royal Commission to the Government of India, but did not believe it would be found practicable to adopt it. To this I can add nothing at present.

NO DEATH DUTIES FOR INDIA.

Sir Edward Sassoon asked the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the present character of the Indian Revenue, he would consider the desirability of extending the principle of the Finance Act of 1894 to the Indian fiscal system.

Lord G. Hamilton: My hon. friend's question is a suggestion that it would be desirable to raise revenue in India by means of Death Duties. The question has often been considered; but in the opinion of nearly all who have discussed it, the habits and usages of the people of that country are such as to make this form of taxation wholly unsuitable if not impracticable.

Monday, August 12.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REPORT ON COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE.

Mr. Trevelyan asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could say how long the last Report of the Visitors of the Cooper's Hill College had been presented to his department; whether he would present it to Parliament this Session; and, if not, whether he would make sufficient communication to the House as to the recommendations in that Report to enable the subject to be adequately debated upon the Indian Budget.

Lord G. Hamilton: The Report of the Board of Visitors was received on the 12th July, and the instructions to be issued upon the points with which it deals are now under consideration. The Report is lengthy and its purport is not such as admits of a condensed communication to the House as the hon. gentleman suggests.

THE TIBETAN EMBASSY TO THE TSAR.

Mr. Norman asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he could now give the House any information concerning the composition, the aims, and the results of the recent so-called Tibetan Embassy to his Majesty the Emperor of Russia.

Viscount Cranborne: His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg has reported that the Tibetan Mission consisted of two envoys with their suite. The principal member of the mission was the Llama Akban Dorgiew, who had brought a complimentary letter from the Dalai Llama to the Emperor of Russia. His Excellency was assured by Count Lamsdorff that the Mission had no political or diplomatic character.

THE NEW MOUNTED INFANTRY.

Mr. Henry J. Wilson asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would state what was the amount estimated for cost of buildings and other initial outlay to be incurred in respect of the new scheme for mounted infantry regiments in India; and what was the consequent anticipated annual addition to Indian Military expenditure; were any of the British troops while stationed in India to be included under this system of special training; what portion of this mounted infantry would be liable to be called upon for service outside of India: And, what proportion of the cost of this addition to the Military forces of the Empire would be borne by the British Treasury.

Lord G. Hamilton: The Government of India has estimated that the cost of accommodation for the mounted infantry will be Rs. 11,75,400, and that the further outlay will be initial Rs. 4,28,337 and recurring Rs. 4,91,088. The mounted infantry will be taken from both British and Native Troops and all might be liable for service outside India under the same conditions as the rest of the Indian Army. No proportion of the cost will be borne by the British Treasury.

THE G.I.P. RAILWAY.

The East India Loan (Great Indian Peninsula Railway Debentures) Bill was read a second time.

Tuesday, August 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE MILITARY OPERATIONS NEAR ADEN.

Earl Spencer asked the Under-Secretary for India whether he could give the House any information regarding recent military operations near Aden, their object and results.

The Earl of Hardwicke replied that in March, 1900, a Turkish subject, Sheikh Mahomed Nazia Mukhbol, established himself in a small fortified post in the country of the Haushabis, one of the Native tribes near Aden under a British protectorate. The boundaries of the protectorate were surveyed and mapped out by a British party in 1891. About March, 1900, a party of Turkish troops proceeded to garrison the post. A reference to the Porte was made by her late Majesty's Government, in the course of which the Turkish Minister of War expressed his disapproval of the Sheikh's action, and the fort was shortly afterwards evacuated; but after the withdrawal of the troops the Sheikh himself reoccupied the post. The Haushabis protested against this, and further representations were made to the Porte, which in April last assured his Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the commander of the Turkish troops in Yemen would make the Sheikh withdraw. But whatever orders might have been given, the Sheikh remained in possession, and the Turkish Government was informed that steps would be taken by the British to remove the intruders. A force of the Haushabis accordingly proceeded, with the sanction of the Resident at Aden, on June 27 to clear their territory and to destroy the fort. Unfortunately, however, they met with a strong and unexpected resistance from a large force, and were unable to effect their object without artillery. In consequence of these operations having been unsuccessful, on July 14 a mixed force of 200 British troops and 200 Native infantry, with six mountain guns, left Aden with strict orders not to cross the Turkish frontier, but to expel the occupants of the fort. The attack was delivered on July 26 and an obstinate resistance encountered. By evening the village and hills overlooking the fort were taken, and on the following morning the position was found to have been abandoned by the enemy. The fort was blown up, and the troops were ordered to remain until all prospect of further attack was removed. They withdrew on August 4, and returned to Aden quite recently. The Turkish frontier was not crossed, and strict orders had been given to the Haushabis to respect it. The Turkish soldiers who were taken prisoners and were able to leave were taken to the frontier and released, as an act of courtesy to the Turkish Government, whose serious attention had been called to the improper conduct of their troops. The matter was now forming the subject of enquiry by the Porte. He had only to add that the Viceroy reported that Major Rowe, who was in command of the expedition—consisting of 200 men of the 1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment and 200 of the 5th Bombay Infantry and Bombay Sappers and Miners,—successfully coped with serious difficulties and deserved credit, and that the conduct of the troops throughout appeared to have been satisfactory.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MATERIALS FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS.

On the motion of Sir Charles Cayzer a Return was granted, showing in tons and value all rolling stock, railway material, and stores supplied for Indian State and Guaranteed Railways during the years 1896 to 1900, inclusive, distinguishing those supplied by British and Foreign firms or persons, and distinguishing whether shipped to India by Foreign or British vessels.

Wednesday, August 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE G.I.P. RAILWAY.

The East India Loan (Great Indian Peninsula Railway Debentures) Bill was read a third time, and passed.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

Notice has been given of the following Questions:—

Mr. Herbert Roberts,—To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the Bombay Land Revenue Bill, recently introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council; whether he is aware that this Bill will empower the Government to re-settle the holdings of cultivators, without the rights of sale or mortgage, in tracts of the country where tenants have possessed those rights for the last 50 years; whether it is the intention of the Government, under this Bill, to sell the holdings now in arrear on account of the recent famine, and to re-settle their holdings without the rights at present enjoyed by them: Whether he is aware that this Bill is opposed by the Native members on the Select Committee of the Bombay Legislative Council, and by associations in Bombay; and is he aware of the feeling it has created in the province: And, whether, in view of the principle hitherto followed in Bombay and other provinces with regard to the preservation of the tenant-rights of cultivators, he will give an assurance that this House will have an opportunity of further considering the subject before the measure is passed into Law.—(Friday, August 16.)

Mr. Keswick,—To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the Public Works Department in Burma is insisting on taking over houses belonging to private owners in the Cantonment of Rangoon without paying the full and fair value of the buildings; and whether he will have the matter enquired into, and by arbitration or otherwise have the real value of the houses ascertained.—(Thursday, August 15.)

NOTICES OF MOTION.

THE INDIAN "BUDGET."

The following Notices of Motion appear on the Order Paper of the House of Commons:—

East India Revenue Accounts,—Ordered, That the several Accounts and Papers which have been presented to the House in this Session of Parliament relating to the Revenues of India be referred to the consideration of a Committee of the whole House. Resolved, That this House will, upon Friday next, resolve itself into the said Committee.—(Secretary Lord George Hamilton.)

On going into Committee on East India Revenue Accounts, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree,—To move, That this House views with approval the efforts made within the last two years by the Viceroy and local governments in India to foster the indigenous industries of the country and promote technical instruction, and is of opinion that, for the better and more rapid attainment of these objects, a public enquiry into the present condition of industrial education should be held with a view to devising a thoroughly regulated system of elementary, technical, and industrial training in connexion with the existing educational institutions throughout India.

Mr. Caldwell,—To call attention to the Famine in India; and to move a Resolution.

Mr. Caine,—To call attention to the Famine in India; and to move, That this House recognises the devoted and earnest endeavours of the Viceroy of India and all concerned in famine administration to relieve the suffering people in the famine districts, but regrets that during a long series of years the attention of the Government has been directed too exclusively to measures for the alleviation of distress to the neglect of those adequate means of prevention recommended by successive Famine Commissions; and this House urges upon the Government of India that no other objects of expenditure, either in order of time or in amount expended, shall be allowed precedence of such measures as are calculated to prevent these constantly recurring calamities.

Mr. Herbert Roberts,—To call attention to the lack of Parliamentary facilities for the discussion of Indian questions; and to move, That this House views with grave concern the lack of Parliamentary facilities for the consideration of Indian questions, and is of opinion that no arrangement will be satisfactory which does not provide that the appointment of the Committee on the Indian Accounts takes place at such a period of the Session as to afford adequate time for the discussion of Indian affairs.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO INDIA.

To be obtained from
THE BRITISH COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, 84-85, PALACE CHAMBERS, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Reports of the Proceedings at the Annual Sessions of the Indian National Congress, from the 3rd to the 14th Session. 2s. each, post free.

The Skeleton at the (Jubilee) Feast (Congress Green Book I.), by Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN, Bart. (being a series of suggestions for the prevention of famine in India). Post free, 7d.

Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure: Evidence-in-Chief of the Indian Witnesses. (Congress Green Book II.) Post free, 1s. 10d.

The Proposed Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions in India. Memorial to the Secretary of State. With two Appendices. (Congress Green Book III.) Post free, 1s. 2d.

Two Statements presented to the Indian Currency Committee (1898), by Mr. DADABHAI NAOROJI.

Speech by Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, M.P., in the House of Commons, August 14, 1894, on the Debate on the Indian Budget.

Ditto do. in the House of Commons, February 12, 1895, on the Debate on the Address.

Ditto do. on British Rule in India (1898).

Presidential Address by Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, M.P., delivered to the Indian National Congress at Lahore, 1893.

Presidential Address by Mr. A. M. Bose, M.A., delivered to the Indian National Congress at Madras, 1898.

Speeches of Mr. Alfred Webb, M.P., President of the Indian National Congress, 1894-5.

Valedictory Address of Mr. Alfred Webb, M.P., delivered at Bombay, January 17, 1895.

Speeches of Mr. D. E. Wacha delivered at the 9th, 11th and 14th Sessions of the Indian National Congress.

Is the Government of India Responsible to Anyone, and if so to Whom? Speech delivered at Croydon by Mr. W. C. BONNERJEE.

The Famine in India. Speeches delivered at a Public Reception to Mr. Vaughan Nash on his return from the Famine Districts, July, 1900.

Mr. A. O. Hume's Farewell to India. Speech delivered at Bombay, 1894.

India Reform Pamphlet IX. The State and Government of India under its Native Rulers. 3d.

The Indian National Congress: its Aims and Justification. By ROBERT KNIGHT.

Indian Politics. A Series of Papers on Important Indian Questions by Prominent Congressmen. Post free, 4s. 4d.

A Needed Reform in the Indian Administration, by ROMESH C. DUTT, C.I.E.

The Bogey of a Russian Invasion. A Lesson from the Tirah Campaign, by Col. H. B. HANNA.

The High Courts and the Collector-Magistrates in India, by J. DACOSTA.

The Government of India and its Reform through Parliamentary Institutions, by J. DACOSTA.

Note on Sir J. Westland's Budget, 1894-5.

Note on the Explanatory Memorandum of the Secretary of State for India, 1894-5.

Note on Sir James Westland's Budget, 1895-6.

Note on Sir H. Waterfield's Tables, 1884-5 to 1894-5.

The Poor Man's Lamb: Famine Insurance for the Masses *versus* Exchange Compensation for the Classes.

REPRINTS FROM "INDIA."

The Judiciary and the Executive in India. Interview with Mr. Manomohan Ghose.

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